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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION

AWP/14 pages • Vol. 34, No. 8 • February 25-March 3, 2011 • FREE



Tamer Hamawi and Emelie Kihlstrom are co-owners of Colonia, a restaurant on Atlantic Avenue that donors helped build.

Kickstarting your dinner

Fancy eatery opens — with your help — in Bklyn Heights

By Linnea Covington
for The Brooklyn Paper

Maybe Al Gore should take credit for this restaurant.

Colonia, the biodynamic, artisanal eatery that just opened last week on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights, is the result of a Kickstarter chef and three committed owners; it also has the power of the social network behind it.

Eighteen-year-old owners Elise Rosenberg, Emelie Kihlstrom, and Tamer Hamawi set up an account on the then-obscure fundraising website Kickstarter, announcing their eatery and seeking donations. And the investment could someday actually exist.

In exchange for cash, the trio offered incentives: pledging \$50 to the effort got you a round of drinks for four people. A grant of

\$1,000 bought an eight-person, family-style table.

The goal was to raise \$10,000 by Nov. 1 — but by year's end, the trio had raised \$15,371 from 91 backers.

"Social networking is the greatest!" said Rosenberg. "We did it to raise money and to get the word out. And it worked."

Like a charm, in fact; long before Colonia opened on Feb. 17, people were talking about the restaurant, the blogs had picked up the thread, and the foodie community in Brooklyn and beyond was swooning.

It helps that Colonia's seasonal American menu goes hand in hand with Brooklyn's latest trend: biodynamic eats.

"This is a trend, but we strongly See COLONIE on page 11

including DUMBO

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BLOOMBERG'S LIES



THE LIES:

Police officers and firefighters receive a "Christmas bonus."

Mike Bloomberg cares about police officers and firefighters.

The VSF is a burden to the city.

The variable supplement fund benefit was an unfunded mandate forced on the city by state legislation.

Other city services will need to be cut unless the city eliminates the variable supplement fund benefit.

THE TRUTH:

It's not a bonus. The fund was started in 1968 with contributions from police officers and firefighters. Since 1996, the city has contributed ZERO dollars to pay for this benefit.

Mike Bloomberg is stealing hard-earned money out of the pockets of police officers and firefighters, which they use to support their families.

Police officers and firefighters bought and paid for this supplemental retirement benefit in contract negotiations by providing concessions and benefits to the city worth far more than \$4 billion.

It is not an unfunded mandate. It was the product of legislation jointly requested by the city and the police and fire unions, and an agreement that has benefited the city to the tune of billions of dollars. Furthermore, it has been fully funded by the police officers' and firefighters' own money for almost two decades.

Since the benefit has been self-funded for almost two decades, no city services need be sacrificed for the city to honor its agreement. If the city is looking for savings, it need only consider the billions of dollars it has wasted on projects like "CityTime" and its Public Safety Access Center (PSAC) 911 call-taker system.



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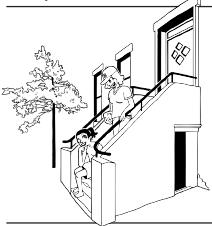
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Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
Patrick J. Lynch, President



Uniformed Firefighters Association
Stephen J. Cassidy, President



THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

GOWANUS



A threatened suit by the environmental group Riverkeeper led to massive fines against a canal-side bus depot owner this week.

Groan depot

By Gary Buso
The Brooklyn Paper

The city fined a commercial bus depot along the Gowanus Canal damaged trash and motor oil into the already toxic waterway — and now he's going to pay for the damage, state officials said this week.

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Office of Environmental Protection issued a \$342,750 fine, claiming that his MCIZ Corporation had contributed to the fouled canal's general nastiness, and ordered Marmurstein to plug his leaky tanks of tanks and clean up the mess at his bus yard and garage near South Street.

"The city has been the site of several petroleum spills, and repeated violations of New York State law governing petroleum bulk storage, tidal wetlands, water quality and solid waste," said agency spokesman Thomas Panzone.

And it's incentive to do the job right. If it clears up its act, the company will get \$125,000 shaved off its bill, Panzone noted.

State officials said photographic evidence provided by Riverkeeper, an environmental watchdog group, documented the scale of the violations.

Josh Verdin, the group's chief investigator and staff attorney, said the driver dumping amounted to a willful disregard of the law.

Marmurstein did not return a call for comment. The bus yard is used to tow cars and airplanes, which over the years complicated the Environmental Protection Agency recently branded it one of the most polluted waterways in the country when it declared the sludge a toxic Superfund site last year.

In 2009, Riverkeeper threatened a civil suit against Manhattan-based oil polluters. The negotiations made changes, but MCIZ did not, Verdin said. "This was very egregious," he added.

Federal officials, who are investigating other oil companies for the same offense, also expect their counterparts to handle this mess, which is a violation of state law, and not related to the feds bigger headache: chasing down polluters responsible for over a century's worth of toxic waste that have seeped deep into the sediment of the Gowanus Canal.

"The Environmental Protection Agency anticipates that the actions laid out in the order will lead to the stoppage of pollution," spokesman John Senn said.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Picture perfect

SJP films on Garden Pl

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

"See and the City," babe Sam Jessica Parker pat Brooklyn Heights behind a Manhattan-style velvet rope last Wednesday, sending star-struck neighbors into a tizzy.

The wailish actress shot a scene from her new movie, "I Don't Know How She Does It," on Garden Place with quirky-cutie Grey Kinnear, who plays her assistant.

Filmmakers lensed the scene on the prototypical Brooklyn street, according to Andrew Zimmerman, who let the crew set up camp for the day. He even had a brush with Carol Braden, 87 — SJP herself, who did a little lingering in his front hallway.

"She's very sweet, but she was working and I didn't want to bother her," he said. "It's an exciting thing for the neighborhood."

The scene involved Parker's character schlepping a bunch of toys from the apartment to the film set. In the fall, so film crew members spent much of the morning clearing the lingering snow mounds from the block.

The crew, which filmed this week, also changed street signs to read "Waltham Place" and "Lemon Road" instead of Garden Place and State Street.



Manhattanite Sarah Jessica Parker lensed a scene from "I Don't Know How She Does It" on Garden Place last week.

Photo: Bryan Rabin

CARROLL GARDENS

Piazza Mexicano?

Dream plaza goes south (of the border)

By Gary Buso
The Brooklyn Paper

Forget gelato and mozzarella, visitors to Carroll Park's newest "pizza" might instead be feasting on a steady diet of tortas and quesadillas.

The city quietly awarded Calexico, the Mexican eatery with a location on Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint and on Avenue C in Williamsburg, a five-year contract to operate a food cart in the park.

Parks spokesman Meghan Lader said the deal pertained to operation of a stand at Stuyvesant and Carroll streets.

The city awards permits to the sale of food carts, which are usually issued through a competitive process. Calexico was the lone business to toss its sombrero into the ring, Lader added.

The cart could add new flavor to the park, which has found itself embroiled in controversy since we first reported that Second Avenue residents and Amherst seniors, a nationally acclaimed journalist for National Public Radio and author, hoped to play a role in converting



Novelist Kurt Andersen still hopes to have a piazza-like feel in Carroll Park — but the city is bringing in Calexico.

the park into a more Italian-style plaza. "We're trying to bring the virtues of Italy to Carroll Park," said Joe Nardello, a neighborhood resident.

Longtime residents noted with a rarely seen venom, saying that no portion of the beloved park is under-utilized.

Some of the area was directed at Andersen himself, whose 21-year residency in Carroll Park has won him a coveted Venn Award for its community service. Andersen opened a full restaurant in the Columbia Street area and a cart in Brooklyn Bridge Park last year.

"This isn't Bryant Park. If you want that type of thing, go into the city," she added.

COBBLE HILL

On the Lamm

Hospital building sold again

By Gary Buso
The Brooklyn Paper

A historic Cobble Hill mansion, developed by the cash-strapped son of Eric Adams, is now owned and is bound to transform into three luxury units. The landmarked Lamm Building, located on a quiet cul-de-sac lots at Amity and Henry streets sold to a trio of investors for \$6 million, according to Eric Adams' office. The new owners intend to transform it into three luxury units. Cobble Hill Blog reported.

The Lamm building was built in 1902 as a series of elegant apartments, including a child neurology clinic. This is the second time the grand property has changed hands in the last two years.

In 2007, LICH sold the mansion and the land for \$1.1 million to Manhattan-based Time Equities.

The company planned to convert the French Renaissance-campanile into eight apartments and construct a sunroom, according to a city press release.

Since the purchase, the Lamm building has been converted into a six-unit residential building.

That ruling left area activi-



This former Long Island College Hospital building on Amity Street in Cobble Hill will become condos.

ties on alert.

"It's a very significant landmark in the community and we are very concerned about its preservation," said Roy Sloane, president of the Cobble Hill Association, a civic group.

The project is back on the market in December, the new owners announced.

Since the purchase, any additional changes to its exterior will require city approval.

The new owners will add office properties in an effort to meet the institution's "operational needs," spokeswoman Zippi Dvash said.

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PARK SLOPE

Scalino returns!

Restaurant reopens after tax scare

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The popular Seventh Avenue restaurant Scalino — shuttered by state authorities last Thursday — reopened Saturday on Amity Street after coming to an agreement with the state to settle its \$230,000 sales tax bill.

Finance officers had pulled the restaurant — and slapped bright orange "SEIZED" signs on the windows — claiming that the owners had failed to pay the permanent loss of neighborhood staple run by the brothers as obsessed with the neighborhood. Studies as they are with home Italian cuisine.

But sure enough, the restaurant, at 10th Street, was serving up its braised pork shoulder and pasta entrees as usual on Saturday.

"I'm not at liberty to discuss it," said Blaise Yakski, who co-owns the restaurant with her husband, Michael.

Blaise declined to say if the tax bill had been paid. State authorities also refused to comment, citing the restaurant's privacy.

At the time, the restaurant was nothing private, during the two-day period when the restaurant was closed, when loyal patrons mourned what they hoped was the permanent loss of neighborhood staple run by the brothers as obsessed with the neighborhood. Studies as they are with home Italian cuisine.

"I hope it opens back up in a day or two," said Martin Einhorn, who sits on a bench outside the restaurant, chomping the tomato cream pasta. "I love the owners, so I hope it's a mistake."

Miller said she feels a kinship with the place because she ate dinner there the night she went into labor. Now, it's one of the neighborhood spots she feels comfortable drinking a glass of wine with her baby.

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A REAL POTTY CRIME

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—
DUMBO—Boerum Hill—
Downtown

A man stole a lawyer's toilet and then tried to kill him on Valentine's Day. The victim told cops that a man broke his window at around 5:35 a.m. on Feb. 14 and stole his signs, near Fourth Avenue. Instead of swiping the normal goods, the quirky crook grabbed a white toilet and headed down the block, schlepping the heavy porcelain god.

He walked over to clean it, but then he took his sign away. "Don't move we'll kill him," one of the thugs then punched the kid in the face, snatched his brown wallet, and off he ran away.

Phony cop Two men who were thieves in costumes jacked some jewels from a shop on Fulton Street on Feb. 16.

The victim told cops that they had been to the store earlier that day.

Cops arrested A 53-year-old man the next day.

Black bag Two thugs roughed up a Starbucks worker on Joralemon Street on Feb. 17.

A 24-year-old victim told cops that she was walking from a bank near Court Street at 9:20 a.m. when a man grabbed her by the throat from behind her.

Another thug sprayed her eyes with Mace, then snatched her bag and a black hand full of \$60.

Subway snatch

A knife-wielding jerk mugged a teenager on Feb. 15 at the Bergen Street train station.

The 13-year-old boy told cops that he got off a bus at around 8:20 a.m., then noticed a strange man following him to the subway. Once at the station, the man snatched a knife, said, "Give me your phone," grabbed it and ran away.

No ride

A teenage crook robbed a woman in a subway station from Adams Street on Feb. 14.

The 31-year-old lady told cops she was refilling her Metrocard at 8:55 a.m., when a man snatched her. He grabbed her trinkets and lime green Coach wallet before running away.

Cops later arrested a 16-year-old, 5-foot-3, 120-pounder, thief.

Park pounce

A group of thugs beat up a teenager and stole his iPod on Jay Street on Feb. 17.

The 16-year-old boy told cops he set his bag on a bench near Tilbury Street at around 2 p.m., then noticed a group of men rummaging through his stuff.

Cops arrested

A thief stole a wallet from a woman on Fulton Street on Feb. 12.

Train crook

The 29-year-old victim told cops that she was eating at a popular and fast Scottish-American restaurant at around 7:30 p.m., but noticed soon afterwards that her brown leather wallet and several credit cards had been snatched.

Train crook

A jerk snatched a woman's wallet on the subway on Feb. 15.

The 35-year-old victim told cops she boarded the train at

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Chin music

Two men realized a 22-year-old man on S. Oxford Street on Feb. 19—leaving their victim with a deep cut to his chin.

He was nearing his home between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street at 12:15 a.m. when the suspects attacked him for no apparent reason.

— Thomas Tracy

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill

Gold crook

Two thugs punched a man in the face and stole his money on Columbia Street on Feb. 15. The 24-year-old man was near West Ninth Street when two teens began pummeling him, and then rudely removing \$120 from his pocket.

Officer Pedro Jiminian quickly caught up with the pair, arresting the 18- and 19-year-old cohorts.

Unwelcome

Someone burglarized a front door of a home overnight on Feb. 17.

Cops said they were not certain whether the victim was present when the burglar entered the home, located near Kane Street, through a front door that was left open between 11:45 p.m. on Feb. 17 and 8 a.m. on Feb. 18. The cat burglar made off with a wallet containing \$200 and assorted credit cards.

Apple picker

A dole with a taste for high-end electronics burglarized a Fourth Place home on Feb. 18.

The 38-year-old victim said she left her home, located near Union Street at 7:15 a.m. and when she returned at 6:45 p.m., she discovered a rear window air.

The creep made off with an Apple laptop valued at \$1,200, along with an Apple iPad worth \$350.

— Gary Buiso

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Pickpocket

A thief sniped an iPhone at Union Hall on Feb. 13. The 25-year-old cop then chased the thief until 6:45 p.m., she discovered a rear window air.

The creep made off with her Apple laptop valued at \$1,200, along with an Apple iPad worth \$350.

— Laura Gottesdiener

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City cooking at Moore Street Market

Officials and Marty seek 'incubator' for local foodies

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's next great food trend could be born at the Williamsburg's Moore Street Market.

The city will spend \$1 million to design a kitchen incubator that would be open to a growing class of food entrepreneurs produce their tasty fare for an affordable price — and (finally!) with the blessing of city health inspectors.

Borough President Markowitz, who is funding the food business incubator, believes that the project will create much-needed jobs in one of the borough's fastest-



The city will build a \$2.5-million pedestrian plaza on Humboldt Street in front of the Moore Street Market — and seek a new commercial kitchen for local food producers.

growing industries.

"Entrepreneurship doesn't know income levels, and I know that great ideas can come from anywhere," said Markowitz.

Markowitz has floated several ideas in recent weeks, but the Economic Development Corporation is targeting East Williamsburg's Moore Street Market — a beloved 60-year-old indoor market that has been closed since last summer because few of its vendors made their food in commercial kitchens.

The business incubator project would make sense at Moore Street, given that it is already pouring \$2.5-million into a new plaza as a gateway to the market. Bushwick Street directly in front of the market. The Department of Transportation has already hired

to make the plaza and its tables and chairs "more artful."

"The market has very strong, vibrant community," said Thomas. "There's music always playing there. It's full of life and potential. It's a great place for the market."

Food entrepreneur and Greenpoint resident Joann Kim is keeping watch on the market for possible rebirth of her Greenpoint Food Project, which was shuttered by health inspectors last summer because few of its vendors made their food in commercial kitchens.

"We have some amazing ideas," said Kim. "We have a vast inventory of food entrepreneurs who are all based in North Brooklyn. It's definitely on our radar."



Bushwick artist Austin Thomas has been selected by the city to work on the new pedestrian plaza next to the market.

Movie shoot picked clean

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside
A perp stole \$30,000 worth of property from a movie shoot on Herbert Street on Feb. 13.

The production com-

pany was using a classroom near Monitor Street at 6 pm when a thief snatched several laptops, iPhones and hard drives.

Rob report

There were at least two break-ins last week:

- A sneaky thief broke into the Salvation Army or Bedford Avenue and stole its safe sometime after the store closed at 6:30 pm on Feb. 14 and when it reopened at 7:30

the next morning, when he noticed the car was gone.

- A thief stole a laptop and camera from a Humboldt Street apartment sometime

between 9:30 am and 10:30 pm on Feb. 14, when he found a hole in the unit near Jackson Street and took to his rear window to open his safe.

Wheel bad news

- A thief swiped a BMW off Woodpoint Road overnight on Feb. 15. The owner told cops that he'd parked his car at 7:30 pm at 5:30 pm, but when he returned at 5:30 the next morning,

• A man who had fled Manhattan on India Street near Manhattan Avenue on Feb. 17 at 9 pm, but when he returned at 6 am the next day, it was gone.

• A thief stole \$100 from the glove box of a car on Sutton Street overnight on Feb. 14. The owner told cops that he'd parked near Norman Avenue at 7:30 pm, but when he returned 10 hours later, he found his driver's-side window was broken and the money had been taken from the glove compartment.

— Aaron Short

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick
Motorino bikes

A thief stole delivery bicycles from Motorino Pizza on Graham Avenue at 7 pm on Feb. 11.

The owner of the popular Neapolitan-style pie palace said that he'd parked six bicycles in the restaurant's parking lot on Moore Street at 7 pm on Feb. 11.

He returned a week later to find them all gone.

Powers bicycle

A perp knocked a cyclist off his wheels on Pow-

ers Street and took his cash on Feb. 20.

The cyclist was riding toward Union Avenue at 6 am when a perp jumped out behind him and punched him in the head. The victim fell down and the perp grabbed \$150 and ran away.

UN stupid

This took a woman's

pocketbook in the stairway of a 5th Street building on Feb. 15.

The victim told cops that she was interviewing people for the United Nations at the time when a thief snatched her bag on the stairs of the building near Keap Street.

She later galloped down the hallway to find the perp had taken the cash and the perp left toward Marcy Avenue.

— Aaron Short

McD's money

A perp slumped a 62-year-old man inside a McDonald's restaurant before he coughed up his cash on Feb. 20.

The thief then fled the restaurant at 7:35 pm on the Broadway restaurant when the perp approached him and smacked him in the face, demanding, "I want my money."

The victim gave him the cash and the perp left toward Marcy Avenue.

— Aaron Short

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clyburn Hill

Cupid crook

A thief ransacked a woman's purse while she was on a date with her boyfriend on Franklin and Lexington avenues this past Valentine's Day — swiping a revealing list of clothes and accessories that included \$600 in lingerie and two pairs of pink stilettos and two coats.

The woman forced open the car after it was parked at 10 pm, the victim told police, adding that she was still going through his search. He found the lingerie after rifling through a suitcase inside the trunk.

Playing around

Three teens were arrested on Feb. 15 after they tried to hold up an 18-year-old on Fort Greene Place with a toy gun.

The victim was on his way to the Dekalb Avenue station at 2:30 pm when the thieves flashed their realistic-looking prop and demanded his phone and credit card.

He grabbed the phone and fled.

Car roundup

At least two cars were

mesSED with last week:

• A thief stole a Ford from S.

First Street overnight on Feb. 14, then he returned to the spot near Hooper Street at 7 am to find the car gone.

• A woman parked her Honda on Roebling Street near S. First Street at 7:30 pm on Feb. 15, but when she returned at 10:30 am the next day, it was gone.

— Aaron Short

Scared off

A hooligan jumped a 25-year-old woman on Cumberland Street on Feb. 18, but ran away when the victim screamed for help.

The victim was walking between Lafayette and Grand Avenues at 11:15 pm when the goon grabbed her from behind, but let go when his victim spoke up.

— Aaron Short

Chin music

Two thugs brutalized a 23-year-old man on S. Oxford Street on Feb. 19 — leaving their victim to a deep cut to his chin.

The victim told police that he was nearing his home between 11:30 pm and 12:15 am when the goons attacked him for no apparent reason.

— Thomas Tracy

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Naked lunchroom!

PS 107 left without its cook in city budget cut

By L. Gottesdiner

The Brooklyn Paper

Parents at Park Slope's PS 107 are fired up over a city budget transfer, but last week, many parents and administrators were quite vocal about the loss.

"It's a huge bummer," said Brendan Vaughan, whose son is in third grade. "It would be terrific to find a way for her to stay."

Torres's transfer is causing extra concern because in place of the usual lunchroom fare of quasi-meat with a side of microwaved who-knows-what, she served

Principal Cynthia Holton, who "feels defeated."

Torres didn't want to leave the school, but her husband, parents and administrators were quite vocal about the loss.

"It's a huge bummer," said Brendan Vaughan, whose son is in third grade. "It would be terrific to find a way for her to stay."

Torres's transfer is causing extra concern because in place of the usual lunchroom fare of quasi-meat with a side of microwaved who-

knows-what, she served

fresh vegetables and pasta sauced with basil straight from the school's outdoor garden, which she helped plant.

"They have better lunch now than they've ever had," said Raisa Maldondo, who has a 30-year relationship with Torres's daughter. "My granddaughter loves the hummus that makes up the difference and justifies the slightly higher

price of \$2.50 for a salad bar at a school cafeteria?"

The Department of Education said it is transferring

Torres to cut costs, though

that make up the difference and justifies the slightly higher



Students at PS 107 enjoyed Lucy Torres's hummus at last year's "Harvest Festival," but the longtime lunch lady has been transferred in a bureaucratic shuffle.

pay she receives compared to her replacement.

"Our numbers are below the threshold, but the fact that goes into the food is more," said Wellness Committee member Jonathan Blumberg. "So it's not that she was performing a lower job on paper, it's salary."

And the bottom line for most parents wasn't numbers, but nourishment.

"I take care of my children," said PTA President Marly Vines. "To have it be a bureaucratic numbers game is very frustrating."

"The other day, there was hummus, and Lucy made it the way that my daughter likes it," Vines said.

and a pair of sneakers. The car was between Grand and Classen avenues.

— Thomas Tracy

Beaten for no reason

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A thug struck a man with a baseball bat on Fourth Avenue after roughly suspecting him of robbing him on Feb. 14.

The victim told police he was at Douglass Street on Union Street on Feb. 16. The victim told cops that she was between Fifth and Fourth avenues at 5:40 pm when two men approached her. One of the men pushed her and the other reached into her pocket to snatch the phone.

Car problems
At least four cars were swiped this week.

* A car was nabbed in the lot of the tanning company on 14th Street last week. The victim told cops that his 2008 Pontiac G6 was taken in an accident on Feb. 11 and taken to a Towing and Collision lot on Second and Third avenues for repair.

The victim told cops that he was stopped at the locker room around 8pm at the end of his shift.

After changing his clothes, he left the restroom, where he was at Third and Union Streets. When he returned minutes later, the bulb — and the \$1,650 it held — was nowhere to be found.

Pickpocketed
Thieves snatched at least two phones last week. Here are the details:

* A thief swiped an Apple iPhone at Union Hall on Feb. 17.

The victim told cops that she was at the club on Union Street near Fifth Avenue at 1 am when a perp bumped into her and lifted

80TH PRECINCT

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

POLICE BLOTTER



enter her home between Underhill and Washington avenues at 5:03 pm when the thief snatched his hand into her coat pocket as he walked by.

86TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Flat broke

A thief entered an Eastern Parkway apartment on Feb. 14, taking a camera, iPod and two laptop computers.

The sneak entered the building between Underhill and Washington avenues through a bathroom window sometime after 7:15 am.

Hauled away

A soon with a lot of trash to take out swiped three Rubbenberg garbage bags from outside a recycling Place Home on Feb. 14.

The homeowner between Underhill and Washington avenues said his pails were only out for half hour before the thief swiped off with them at 7:30 pm.

Car cabin fever

Several cars were broken into in Prospect Heights this week. Here's what happened:

* A crook broke the passenger-side window of a 1994 Volvo parked on Eastern Parkway on Feb. 16, taking a navigation system.

The car was between Underhill and Washington avenues when the 6 pm break-in took place.

* An even older Honda Civic was stolen from Third Street on Feb. 17.

The victim told cops he had parked a 17-year-old sedan between Fourth and Fifth avenues on Feb. 12 and returned two days later to find

the antediluvian automobile gone.

* A perp swiped a motorcycle from Douglass Street overnight on Feb. 15. The victim told cops that he parked his 2004 Vespa by Barrio on Seventh Avenue at 8 pm and returned the next morning to find the Euro-scooter gone.

— Laura Gottesdiner

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1. The likelihood of you pooping on the hairdresser is pretty slim.

2. You don't bite or scratch your hairdresser.

3. Your hairdresser only washes and cuts the hair on your head, not your entire body.

4. Your haircut doesn't include a manicure or pedicure.

5. You sit still for your hairdresser.

6. Your hairdresser doesn't have to remove the boogies from your eyes.

7. Your hairdresser doesn't have to clean your ears.

8. Your hairdresser doesn't have to give you a sanitary trim.

9. You don't go for eight weeks without washing or brushing your hair.

10. Your hairdresser doesn't wash and clean your rear end.



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ROAD RAGE!

There's an ambulance in the bike lane

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

An ambulance driver who abandoned traffic-choked Prospect Park West to use the controversial bike lane as a shortcut was hardly alone.

Drivers told The Brooklyn

Paper that traffic backups on the boulevard—which was narrowed from three lanes to two last summer to accommodate the two-way cycle path—occasionally force them to maneuver around cars in the bike lane during rush hour.

BIKE

Continued from page 1

• Make the Department of Transportation compile all collision data involving bicycle accidents.

• Make cops report both car and bicycle infractions online every month, along with info about what led to the bang-ups.

• Make the Department of Transportation explain—with data to back it up—

why it has rejected a request for a traffic light or stop sign. And it needs to show data to back up its claims.

• Whatever the collected data shows, critics of the Prospect Park West bike lane said the very existence of the legislation is evidence that they aren't getting the safety they want.

"It's not just a local problem; it's citywide," said Lois Carswell of Seniors for Safety, which has long opposed the lane. "There have been a lot of troubling ways the city has constructed these lanes."

But the city says that its Prospect Park West bike lane has made the neighborhood safer for drivers and for cyclists.

In January, the Department of Transportation said that its data shows that crashes are down 16 percent and those that occur in half a mile away from an accident are much more likely to drive at or below the speed limit; and that no pedestrian injuries or pedestrian-cyclist crashes have occurred since the lane was installed last June.



Bike lane foes caught an ambulance using the Prospect Park West cycle path in December.

on video driving in the bike lane—a piece of YouTube footage that has inflamed already heated debate between drivers and cyclists.

Lane critics, who videoed the black-and-white video at 4:15 pm on Dec. 21, used its footage to make the case that the bike lane is "really, really scary," said James Bernard, a member of Community Board 6 and an opponent of the bike lane.

Lane critics, who videoed the black-and-white video at 4:15 pm on Dec. 21, used its footage to make the case that the bike lane is just anecdotal baloney, said Department of Transportation officials. Ambulances all over the city break traffic rules to get to patients as fast as best a traffic bottleneck and at worst, a ticking time bomb.

At the top of Prospect Park West, near the park's towering arches, drivers

must watch for quick-moving cyclists, joggers and merchants hauling crates to the Grand Army Plaza farmer's market. Add a stray animal to the mix and it's the recipe for chaos, critics say.

But footage of an ambulance in the bike lane is just anecdotal baloney, said Department of Transportation officials. Ambulances all over the city break traffic rules to get to patients as fast as best a traffic bottleneck and at worst, a ticking time bomb.

Even after seeing the video, Department spokesman Seth Solomonow defended the new lane by referencing data points that the agency has been putting out all year. "Speed is down, cycling up and down, overall cycling has been all but eliminated," he said.

Overall, the department reported that overall street users decreased by 10 percent after lane was installed in July.

And fewer drivers are now traveling Prospect Park West

slammed the city for fudging numbers. Plus, many members of the group oppose the lane because it has ruined the grand look of Prospect Park West.

The group's president, Louise Hainline, has been recording drivers in the bike lane in hopes of documenting its danger, which explains how she captured the rogue (or hero, depending on perspective) ambulance.

Before the lane was built, 75 percent of cars would exceed the speed limit; now only 20 percent do. Crashes, too, have dropped by 30 to 25 in pre-lane years.

Neighbors for Better Bike Lanes, which operates the lane, is not impressed. After the report went out, the group

claims that the incident on camera is just one of three cases in which a motor vehicle used the lane.

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Why vacations are Dad's little helper

It's school vacation, and I'm away. The kids are having a ball, hanging with friends from breakfast until we all collapse at night. My wife wanted to come planned to, but stayed home because she was sick. Of course she misses us; the house seems empty. She wants to feel part of our trip, connected to the girls and their vacation updates?

When the girls were little and one of us was away, with photos, videos, texts, e-mails, I could keep them updated with vacation updates. "Getting to breakfast. Good eggs." (Attach photo.) "Done with breakfast. Brushing teeth..."

I could keep this up all day — except I'd go crazy and enjoy my vacation. My kids would get sick of me and my intrusions. Sure, I miss the beach because there is sun and sand off. Is one phone call enough? Once e-mail — a longish one. Once a text, two texts and a photo? What's the etiquette here?

The girls are little and one of us was away, it felt important to call each day. We made them understand that we were still thinking about them even when physically absent.

The first time my wife was away for more than a week, we jumped through hoops to do the right thing. Of course, she'd call, but they didn't need to do anything anymore. It's not that they don't miss mom, just that as teenagers they are in the mood, and when parents aren't present, well, the mood goes on.

My daughters will be happy to see mom when we return, but the kids are more likely to be a gender thing; mom feels guilty leaving her away and harbor secret fears that they're not needed. How can I make mom feel good and expand protecting that motherly ego?

The Dad
By Scott Sager

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FAMILY CALENDAR

SAT, FEB. 26

11 a.m. Story time. Free. Greenwich Library, 100 Greenwich St., between South Elliott Place and South Fourth Street. For info, call (718) 535-4000; greenlighbookstore.com

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Alice in Wonderland." See Saturday, Feb. 26.

MON, FEB. 28

4 p.m.: The Charles and Ray Eames, \$7. Cobble Hill Cinema, 100 Cobble Hill Street, between Butler and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 596-9113; www.cobblehillcinema.com

TUES, MARCH 1

4 p.m.: Story craft. Listen to a story and then create a project. Free. Public Library (25 Franklin Ave.), between Franklin and Park Slope. (718) 230-2100.

3 p.m.: "Treasure Island." Read by Louis Steppuhn's classic pirate tale. \$20-\$45.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

7 p.m.: "Sleeping Beauty."

Free. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue and East New York Street).

THURS., MARCH 3

4 p.m.: Story craft. Listen to a

story and then create a proj-

ect. Free. Public Library (25

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12:30 PM AND 2:30 PM: "Alice in Wonderland." See Saturday, Feb. 26.

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Family Disco 2nd Saturdays, 6p

Wii Night 3rd Saturdays, 6p

Fri Movie Night, Sun Bingo Night!

Singalong 7p 11a

Storytimes 8a/W/F 12p

Dance Around 7p 11a

DAYTIME Weekend Singalong, 1st & 3rd Sundays, 12pm

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of New Jersey and Connecticut who are at least 18 years of age. Sweepstakes commences at 100 PM ET on January 31, 2011, and ends at 11:59 PM ET on March 5, 2011. Two methods of entry: Enter online at www.yankees.com/attsweeps or text TRIP #89269 to enter. For Sweepstakes Official Rules, visit www.yankees.com/attsweeps. Standard text messaging rates apply for text message entries. Check your service provider for pricing plans and service availability. Sponsor: AT&T, Inc., 208 S Akard St, Dallas, TX 75202. VOID OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT, and the District of Columbia. Sweepstakes is subject to change or cancellation at any time at the sole discretion of the Sponsor. All New York Yankees trademarks and copyrights are owned by the New York Yankees and are used with the permission of the New York Yankees. All other trademarks and copyrights are the property of their respective owners. © 2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

Feb. 25-March 3, 2011

The DUMBO crawl

Where to eat, drink and make merry while looking at art

By Michelle Manetti
The Brooklyn Paper

There's a certain checklist when it comes to DUMBO: that tiny, bridge-bound neighborhood on the waterfront. From pizza joints to patisseries to stores for chocolates; Dovers's Candy store for candies, the Powerhouse for great readings, art books and events; Rice for a quick, fresh Asian meal; BoConcepts a family-friendly furniture store; and there's a family-friendly meal right upstairs. But there are plenty of other great attractions — food, booze or just shopping. So, as you're hopping around the neighborhood, check out the Brooklyn Art Fair, Brooklyn Art Book Fair, the Brooklyn Art fair, Verner Art Books... here's our guide to where to eat, drink and shop beyond the usual suspects.

Shopping

Neighborhoodies: This is the only store in Brooklyn where you can buy custom hand-stitched items made in Mexico. From heavy leather to T-shirts, you can express your thoughts and ideas displayed at a great price with items ranging from \$32.99 to \$79.95.

DUMBO is great for small businesses, like owner Lori Fields. "We have so much support and style here."

Neighborhoodies [24 Jay St., between Water and Front streets, (718) 243-2653] No strolling on Saturday, closed Sundays. For info, visit [neighborhoodies.com](http://www.neighborhoodies.com).

Modern Anthology [68 Jay St., between Front and Water streets, (718) 522-3020] Appointments only, by appointment. For info, visit [modernanthology.com](http://www.modernanthology.com).

Egg by Susan Lazar: There's just something about eggs and bacon. Chances are, you know someone who's expecting, and for stylish baby clothes, including organic items, look no further than Lazar. And for those who are expecting, there's also a great selection of equally fashionable maternity clothes.

Egg by Susan Lazar [72 Jay St. at Front Street, (718) 422-7811]. For info, visit www.eggby susanlazar.com.

Shop @ Green Desk: This isn't your ordinary shopping mall. At the Shops @ Green Desk you can find small, artisanal shops like the Antique Boutique and the Kitchen, a self-service laundry and period-based dress-to-accessories store and jewelry shop. And if you're looking for cute clothes for your tiny tots, Little Poco and Madison Parker bring the cool clothing for infants and toddlers with Latin and Brooklyn styles, while Huggy Bunny takes baby clothing back to classics.

"We do all animal and nature-based clothing," said owner and designer Andrea Chircen. "We focus on happy colors and scenery."



Photo by Jeff Grogan



Photo by Jeff Grogan



Photo by Jeff Grogan



Get the scoop on Verge Art Brooklyn
SEE PAGE 11

If you're in the mood for a delicious treat after you've done your shopping, you can stop by Nutri-Nuts for good-roasted cashews or O'Crepes which sells organic, low-calorie crepes.

Shops @ Green Desk [This isn't your ordinary shopping mall. At the Shops @ Green Desk you can find small, artisanal shops like the Antique Boutique and the Kitchen, a self-service laundry and period-based dress-to-accessories store and jewelry shop. And if you're looking for cute clothes for your tiny tots, Little Poco and Madison Parker bring the cool clothing for infants and toddlers with Latin and Brooklyn styles, while Huggy Bunny takes baby clothing back to classics.]

"Even though DUMBO is ever-changing, it doesn't have an interesting creative community," said owner Anna Cosentino.

Spring [126 Front St., between Adams and Jay Streets, (718) 222-1054] Closed Sunday and Mondays. For info, visit www.spring3d.com.

Stewart/Stand: This design shop might just lure you in from off the street to its lovely Adams Street shop, which sells a variety of upscale items, as well as home goods and some really unique stationery. Plus it's packed with fun toys for all ages.

Stewart/Stand [147 Front St. at Pearl Street, (718) 675-1204] For info, visit www.stewartstand.com.

PS Bookshop: This second-hand shop got too big for its britches, relocating to a larger space from its original location last spring. The focus is still on art, photo and design books, but there's plenty of options if you're looking for a classic or recent fixture. It also has a kids corner, and often encourages parents to read while children browse.

PS Bookshop [76 Front St. at Washington Street, (718) 222-3340] For food & drink

Rebar: It doesn't matter what time of day you're in DUMBO — the gastropub Rebar does not disappoint. For lunch, it offers \$8 specials including soup and unlimited soft drinks that includes a haute Philly Cheesesteak, a burger, a pulled pork sandwich and salads. For dinner, the menu

expands to include oso buco, steaks and ribs. And all night long, there's a great bar with a vast beer selection and specialty cocktails, including one named after our editor (it's a girly drink, so go figure). Rebar's got a single-level movie theater in its basement where you can watch indie films and drink indie brews.

Rebar [147 Front St. between Pearl and Jay streets, (718) 766-9110] For info, visit www.rebarbklyn.com.

Water Street: Owner and DUMBO legend Jeffrey Rodman changes his menu regularly, so you never know exactly what you're in for — except a good time. Now, he's serving the same menu with a twist.

Divas-themed menu includes delicious fall-off-the-bone babybacks. The bar is hopping during football season, and after the after-Underwater Lounge downstairs, the neighborhood's secret night club, Attic, has Attic Steam on tap. What more could you want?

Water Street [66 Water Street between Main and Dock streets, (718) 625-9352]

69 Jay Street Bar: Once an unassuming bar, this spot now bills itself

See DUMBO on page 11

EVERY WEEK ON WATER STREET...

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Begins at 10:30am
Includes one complimentary red sangria or mimosa, fresh seasonal fruit, fresh-baked mini muffins and a choice of 12 entrees

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CINEMA

Badass films

Kim Jee-woon is a damaged filmmaker — but the Brooklyn Academy of Music means that in the best way possible.

The controversial South Korean gore-fest is a master of shock and splatter — and you can see new work from him, as BAM screens six of his films in the appropriately titled retrospective, "Severely Damaged."

That includes the horror picture, "A Tale of Two Sisters," the gonzo Western "The Good, The Bad and The Weird," and his last film, "The Devil" (pictured), a disturbing thriller in which a lawman enacts a brutal revenge on the murderer of his pregnant fiancée.

All six films have happy endings," said Jee-woon, who'll be at the Feb. 25 screening for a Q&A. "So I made this as a new form of revenge film... to stay closer to the original emotions of vengeance."

It worked. "I Saw the Devil" was initially banned in Korea.

"Severely Damaged" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100; Feb. 25-March 2, Tickets \$12 (members \$7). For info, visit www.bam.org. — Ethan Alter

COMEDY

'Funny' stuff

Michael Showalter is a tad obsessed with process.

In "Mr. Funny Pants," the comedian's new quasi-memoir, he spends five chapters discussing writing the book, including a preface, postscript, and post-post preface, and even fake reviews for the finished product.

It's a tactic that may fail in less skilled hands for a brainy, offbeat and, yes, funny, literary debut but filled with irreverent, off-the-wall comedy.

Showalter is as full of life as his book is, and he's got a single-line interview with Charlie Rose — as well as tidbits from his own life.

Showalter may be new to the publishing world, but he's a legend in the comedy circuit.

To celebrate his new book, he'll perform (match!) at Eugene Mirman's "Pretty Good Friends" show, then read at BookCourt in Cobble Hill on March 1.

Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 642-6510; Feb. 27, 8 pm, \$10. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], March 1, 7 pm, free. For info, visit www.michaelshowalter.net. — Meredith Deliso

DINING

Crepes Italia

It's a cross-cultural crepe smackdown in Park Slope, where an Italian take on the traditional French pancakes promises to knock the socks off the chouxines — off even the most devout Francophile.

The newcomer is Crespella, an espresso bar and Italian creperie that opened two weeks ago on Smith Avenue between Eighth and Ninth streets.

"A lot of people know about it, but it's not just a French thing; they are actually very popular in Italy," said co-owner Maria Zito-Bucca, a Brooklyn born Sicilian, which explains her crepes with mascarpone and biscotti or the savory mortadella, fontina and arugula crepe.

In another break with France, Zito-Bucca (who with Stefania Adragna) uses chickpea flour instead of the traditional wheat flour to lend a saltiness.

"I am a huge fan of panisse sandwiches," said Zito-Bucca. "In honor of my guilty pleasure, I'm going to use chickpea flour to create the crepes."

And it doesn't matter which European country wins your allegiance — everyone loves the Stumptown coffee.

Crespella [321 Seventh Ave. between Eighth and Ninth streets in Park Slope, (718) 778-2950] — Laura Gottschien

'Clock' of ages

Miller's forgotten Depression show is dusted off for the big Recession

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Once Arthur Miller's lesser-known plays are finally getting its due.

Beginning on March 3, Brave New World Repertory Theatre presents full-scale production of "The American Clock" at the Brooklyn Lycum in Park Slope. And the Great Depression-era epic couldn't be more timely.

"It's very satisfying to be able to

THEATER
"The American Clock" at the Brooklyn Lycum (227 Union Street at Atlantic), Park Slope in Brooklyn, (718) 857-7658, www.bravenewworldrep.org

do this play during what is the end of the Great Recession, because I don't think it

ever really had its moment in Arthur Miller's lifetime," said Artistic Director Clinton Beckman. "His words could be warming to people, that the clock is ticking on the American dream, and the play needs to be heard."

The play is based on Studs Terkel's book about the period, "Hard Times," but is also heavily mirrored after Miller's own childhood. Like Miller's family, the fictional Baums moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn after los-



Hard times: Brave New World does justice to Arthur Miller's epic dramatic vaudeville, "The American Clock," with a full cast and live band in its production at the Brooklyn Lyceum in Park Slope. See it starting March 3.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

THEATRE SATURDAY, 9:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 25.

MUSIC: ANDY FRIEDMAN: Concerts at the Brooklyn Tabernacle (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Court Street) on Saturday, (718) 395-3214, www.tabernacle.org

MUSIC: FLOATING KABARET: With Jenny Rocha and the band. Hosted by Lady Scouthington, Maine Attorney General Janet Mills, Lisa Natch, Mayor Michael Dubois, and Hosts Trice & Monkey. \$10. Sat., 8 pm. Brooklyn Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street) in DUMBO, (718) 230-2100, www.floatingkabarett.com

SALES AND MARKETS ARTISTS AND FLEAS: 8 am–4 pm. Sat., 10:30 am–5 pm. Between Wythe and Kent

avenues in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, (718) 5765, artsandflea.com

GREENPOINT/MCCLAREN: Openings at 8 am–4 pm. Union Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-8575, greenpoint-mclaren.com

FORGE GREEN PARK:

READING: JEFF CZEKAK: Ill-ustrator of "Secrets." Free. 1 pm. Brooklyn Park (200 Franklin Street) in Greenpoint, (718) 788-7474, www.greenpark.org

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: 8 am–4 pm. (Washington Park between Dekalb and Willoughby avenues in Fort Green) (718) 367-4766, www.greenycy.org

TALK, CIVIL RIGHTS MOVE: Discussion on the most politically turbulent 1960s. Free. 2–4 pm. Brooklyn Greenmarket, 8 am–4 pm. Union Square, 9 am–4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Square) between 5th Avenue and Park Slope, (212) 788-7474, www.civilrightsmove.org

MASSIVE ROCK SALE:

Hosted by the Park Slope United Rock Club. Free. 9 am–2 pm. Park Slope United Rock Club (10th Avenue at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 328-7125, www.parkslopeunitedrockclub.com)

BROOKLYN FLEA: More than 100 vendors. 10 am–6 pm. Sat., 10:30 am–5 pm. Hanson St. at Flatbush Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 230-2100, www.brooklynflea.com

LIFE: PART OF SEVERITY Damaged: The Cinema of Kim Ji-woon. \$12 (members), \$15 (non-members). Fri., 7:30–9:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave.) between Flatbush Avenue and Fort Greene, (718) 636-4500, www.bam.org

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: 8 am–4 pm. Sat., 10:30 am–5 pm. Between Wythe and Kent

REGARDING WOLD NEWTON READING SERIES: An evening of readings, music, film, and vaudeville. Free. 6 pm. Word! (226 Franklin Street) in Greenpoint, (718) 367-0026, www.woldnewton.com

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Life in a Blender perform at Barbes on March 5.

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CLOCK: 8 pm. See Thursday, March 3.

MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT: LEIS JANACEK COMPOSER: David Kallohus, piano. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). Sat., 8 pm. Brooklyn Civic, civic.org/growing-businesses.

MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERTS, NEW NUMBERS, THE CAGLIONI AND SEAN BONHAM: Rock Shop (249 Fourth Avenue at Union Street) between Pacific and Union streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740, www.rockshopbk.com

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FIEND...

Continued from page 1
he claimed were "from the accuser."

"I wish nothing more than to serve justice to the defendant (and maybe, forcedly...) –" read a Dec. 27 e-mail that Stoll said was from the accuser to Hopkins. "I want nothing more than to please you, Master."

According to cops, the victim, whose name has not been released, responded to Hopkins's boasts about his apartment in the online classified service. After he said she could live in his unit for free as long as she worked for him, a few hours later, Wisconsin to New York on Feb. 4, Hopkins picked her up at the airport and drove her to the apartment—but once inside, he restrained her and told her that she would serve as his "slave."

Hopkins bound and gagged her for a week and forced her to do housework and anal sex, sometimes handcuffing her to a radiator, according to law enforcement.

Hopkins let her leave the apartment several times to go to a restaurant job she held in Manhattan, cops said, but it's not clear why she did not call her for help until Feb. 12.

Her mother called Wisconsin cops, who got in touch with the NYPD, which said its officers raided the apartment.

COLONIE

Continued from page 1
believe that it's the way to go," he said.

The menu, which offers rotating delicacies including romanesco cauliflower, scallops with kabocha squash, rabbit lasagna, and scallops in a wine, tarragon and pickled onions, was put together by Alex Sorenson, who worked with the trio briefly at the restaurant. Publix, in Brooklyn.

The trio's menu also gives a tip of the hat to New York producers with wine on tap from North Fork and the Finger Lakes, and draft beer from Sixpoint and Omnipollo.

The owners also embraced a sustainable attitude inside, hiring Brooklyn Heights architect Alex Meyers of MADdesign created a farm-

ment found the victim trembling on Hopkins's bed without any clothes.

They also found Hopkins' electrical waste set up for sexual abuse: bags attached to the ceiling of the studio, and an array of sex toys, including ball gags, a whip, and a rope placed in a bag on the floor.

In a separate interview with the Daily News, Hopkins said, "I didn't rape her."

"I would say anything happened to them in New York State, and they believe her and not the man," he added. "Everything they're saying I did was consensual. She could have done whatever she wanted to, but she didn't."

And a Feb. 5 e-mail that Stoll made available told Hopkins, "I yearn to serve my Master better. Can I cook for you? (sic!) I love you so much!"

The e-mails make it clear that Hopkins is innocent, his lawyer said.

These accusations only arose when my client called the complainant's mother, to tell her that her daughter needed some emotional help, and should probably go back home," said

Big Bellies on 5th

New trashcans are straight out of the future

By Laura Gottsiedener

The Brooklyn Paper

In Park Slope, even the garbage gets a fancy new home.

On Tuesday, the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District installed six solar-powered, self-compacting trashcans at Bergen Street, Union Street and Fourth Street — plus additional Big Belly units on Ninth Street and Sixth Street.

The receptacles cost \$3,000 and hold three to five times more trash than a regular city-issue pail. They have a built-in compactor that reduces trash volume by 70 percent when the trash piles up.

Oscar the Grouch isn't the only fan. Local business owners especially like the cans because it will hold more garbage that blows in from their storefronts, resulting in tickets.

"It's an excellent idea," said



Linda Blumleis, co-owner of Bagel Works in Park Slope, sits atop one of the new solar-powered trashcans.

pickups, which reduces Sanitation truck emissions.

"The BID wants to go green as often as possible," said Greg Murjani, the legendary Mr. Rubbish, who extolled the numerous benefits of Big Belly as he installed the cans across Park Slope on Tuesday.

But not everyone is impressed by the Jetsonian measures.

"Big Belly does not eliminate the essential functions of the Sanitary Worker, as the BIDs must still pay for collection services to bagged litter out for DSNY collection," said Sanitation spokesman Matt Lipman.

Still, there's more space in the can means five times fewer Sanitation pickups — a cost-cutting measure that sets up a better deal for collectors and senior citizens, who make \$672 a year.

At least, for now.



Mr. Rubbish himself, Greg Murjani, has installed solar-powered trash-compacting garbage cans along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. These are cutting edge cans, people.

Neighborhood on the 'Verge'

By Meredith Deliso

The Brooklyn Paper

Move over, Manhattan.

One of the world's biggest art fairs is coming to Brooklyn.

Verge Art, Brooklyn's newest art fair, coinciding with the internationally hyped Armory Show, comes to DUMBO from March 3 to 6.

Thirty minutes before it officially opened, the first visitors began to file into the dark and cold gallery spaces from the closed-up toy factory resting over the bar.

"Everyone had to be a part of it to be a place you come back to,"

Colonia, 1127 Atlantic Ave., between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 855-7500.

The organizers also embraced a sustainable attitude inside, hiring Brooklyn Heights architect Alex Meyers of MADdesign created a farm-

house-chic style with a rustic wood ceiling and floor, old-world lighting for dining, and tables in felt chairs hanging from a wall, and mirror from the closed-up toy factory resting over the bar.

"Everyone had to be a part of it to be a place you come back to,"

Colonia, 1127 Atlantic Ave., between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 855-7500.

Unlike most art fairs, Brooklyn's will be free, and the art will be shown in actual galleries, as opposed to booths and sprawling displays, but an exception to that.

Most fairs don't stay open after dark, but Brooklyn's will run until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with facts of the fair include a curated show comprised of submissions from Brooklyn galleries and a joined open call that will accept work from all over the world.

James Kalm, a long-time writer for Brooklyn Rail, noted that one week — at least some art fairs — will be enough to hit Brooklyn's art fair.

Mass, cultural affairs director for the DUMBO developer Two Trees, which is co-producing the festival with Verge, said, "We're really want to be a part of it to be a place you come back to."

"Whatever the impetus, the Verge Art concept is that the art is actually being created by New York artists and to experience the charm of this waterfront neighborhood," said Mass.

"Brooklyn is a very important and dynamic piece of the New York art scene as some of the characteristics of Brooklyn art," Kalm said.

"There's a great, raw, chunky energy to Brooklyn art that's kind of the look of the work that's being done here," said Kalm. "It's a much more in your face kind of attitude. It's like making something out of the crap



Fair weather: DUMBO's new art fair includes contemporary work like this funny piece by CEPT.

wick-like English Kills, and the wheat street art scene as some of the characteristics of Brooklyn art," Kalm said.

"It's a great, raw, chunky energy to Brooklyn art that's kind of the look of the work that's being done here," said Kalm. "It's a much more in your face kind of attitude. It's like making something out of the crap

that falls off the BQE. You're going to take it and make it artistic things out of it."

Verge Art, Brooklyn, March 3-5, noon-10 p.m. and March 6, noon-8 p.m. in DUMBO. Free. For the list of participating galleries and events, visit www.brooklynartfair.com.

DUMBO...

Continued from page 7

being-in ribeye, for \$28, which is the price of a bottle of wine in the century; 2, Baldemic himself. A former cook at Elaine's in the glory days, Baldemic is a self-styled eccentric who is as good as the yarn-spinners who prop up that fabled bar.

#7 Old Fulton Street [7 Clinton St. between Front and Water streets, (718) 797-0007]

Entertainment

Galapagos Art Space: The former Williamsburg venue found a new home in DUMBO three years ago.

Space: A long with Rice and Jacques Torres, space owner Stephen Sperber is one of the neighborhood's young pioneers, opening nearly 10 years ago. On weekends, there's a sit-down dinner with work on the walls and live bluegrass during Sunday brunch. If you're looking for a late-night drink and a round of pool, the bar is open until 2 a.m.

Surfline (26 Front St., (718) 243-9005):

Old Fulton Street:

Dema Baldemic opened his Italian restaurant over the summer, and there are at

least two reasons to go: I.

The amazing 30-course,

being-in ribeye, for \$28, which is the price of a bottle of wine in the century; 2, Baldemic himself. A former cook at Elaine's in the glory days, Baldemic is a self-styled eccentric who is as good as the yarn-spinners who prop up that fabled bar.

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Entertainment

Galapagos Art Space: The former Williamsburg

venue found a new home in DUMBO three years ago, earning raves for its breath-taking art gallery, which pools water around each table and candles clump on the walls.

It's also gained fans for quirky performances — clowns, acrobats, acrobats and nerd nites comprise a typical week. Don't miss the weekly flagship party, Floating Kabarette, the burlesque, part burlesque, part variety shop

on March 5.

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Despite such paltry numbers, Squadron was energized.

The report did not mention the budget, which is maintained by city and state officials, sources said.

Despite such paltry numbers, Squadron was energized.

"Between what's included in the budget and what's left over, it's difficult to know exactly how much is available to fund the park without building new site-luxury housing," he said.

A public hearing on

the report will be held at St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Clinton and Court streets in Brooklyn Bridge Park), on March 31 at 6 p.m. For info, visit www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

PARK...

Continued from page 1

the park dismissed the park improvement district tax.

"We already pay our taxes," said Judi Francis, president of Brooklyn Bridge Park, which has agreed to keep housing out of Pier 6 and to maintain the open space in the same way that normal city parks do.

Squadron is pushing the commissioners to increase the revenue before the end of the report's 60-day "public comment period."

"The most important alternative is to increase the revenue, but we have not yet been able to do that," said 23-year-old Brunetti, who later admitted that green and environmental issues are not his top concern.

On Presidents' Day, many

parents who had been pushing the proposed changes to the park to give it a more "green" feel came out to protest.

"People come to the movies to sit next to each other," said maintenance man Gary Hans, gesturing to the unusable chairs pockmarking the entrance to Pier 6.

Despite his jubilation over

revenue, though neither did Bryant Park is supported by a massive BID that manages more than \$5 million a year to support city services.

In addition to the \$5 million maximum revenue earmarked for the park improvement district, the consultant identified \$3 million in private funding that could be raised by:

• Parking, \$200,000 to \$400,000.

• Creating more concessions beyond the soon-to-be-opened Pier 6 and fast food options in DUMBO. Free. For the list of participating galleries and events, visit www.brooklynartfair.com.

• Charging sports enthu-

siasm to use proposed recreation facilities inside the park — \$600,000.

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Talking Hearing Aids: What are they saying?

Yes, it is true! Hearing aids can inform you of battery life, functional status of your hearing aid, appointment scheduled and selected programs in English or the language of your choice. On those rare occasions your hearing malfunctions, it will tell you to make an appointment with your audiologist (Starkey and Microtech). These same manufacturers have ingeniously introduced technology (T2 Remote) where your cell phone can control volume, and other features of your hearing aid. No more fumbling with remote controls or tiny controls in your hearing aid.

Our final technology update involves the use of wireless technology (2.4GHz) to connect hearing aids to cell phones (hands free), TVs, and music from your favorite audio device. Watch TV or listen to music with your family at your preferred listening level. Improvements using the new standard allow for crystal clear sound without bulky body-worn devices or digital delays.

Join Dr. Kiesel and a ReSound Representative this weekend (Thursday, February 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th) at Audiology Affiliates, 142 Joralemon St. (suite 6A), at the corner of Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights to learn more about your hearing aid demo.

Appointments are limited, so please call today: (718) 858-6734.

up the city's Audit Bureau in the face of the widespread budget crunch. The audit bureau's expenditures, revenues and activity logs to make sure that they aren't selfishly blowing tax money.

Chamberlain, the head of the Economic Development Corporation, which may also want to draft legislation to make it easier to build the park without building new site-luxury housing.

The ask-a-palau is part of Liu's effort to bulk

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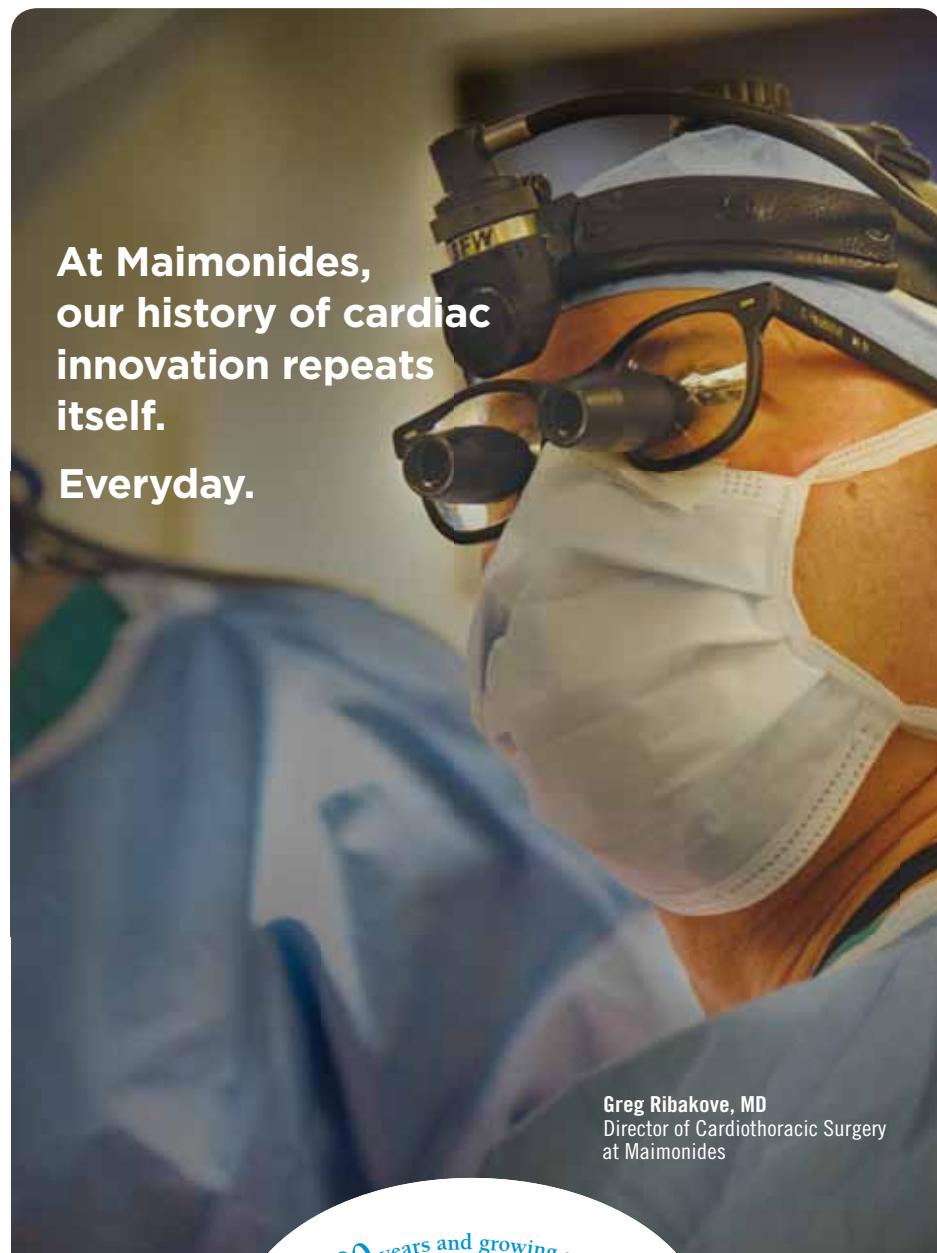
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**At Maimonides,
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Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery
at Maimonides

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